



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 13 Number 5 May/June 2020

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The latest information I have is that there will be no meeting in May and the status of the June meeting is unknown.



May to September USPS Stamp Issues

May 13	American Gardens. Ten (55¢) forever commemorative stamps.
May 21	Voices of the Harlem Renaissance (Nella Larsen, Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, Anne Spencer, Alain Locke). Four (55¢) forever commemorative stamps.
June 13	Enjoy the Great Outdoors (building a sand castle, canoeing, hiking, biking & cross-country skiing) Five (55¢) forever special stamps.
June 26	Whistling Ducks. Federal migratory waterfowl hunting & conservation stamp.
July 1	Hip Hop. Four (55¢) forever commemorative stamps.
July 17	Fruits & Vegetables. Ten (55¢) forever definitive stamps (plums, tomatoes, carrots, lemons, blueberries, grapes, lettuce, strawberries, eggplants, figs)
Aug 13	Ruth Asawa. Ten (55¢) forever commemorative stamps.
Aug 21	Thank You. Four (55¢) forever definitive stamps
Aug 26	Women Vote. One (55¢) forever commemorative stamp.
Sept. 17	Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor. One (55¢) forever commemorative stamp.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DEN

While it is nice to share time with fellow stamp collectors at meetings and shows, staying at home and sheltering in place makes that impossible now. And on that note I just heard that the Great American Stamp Show in Hartford, Connecticut, this August has been canceled. We can only hope that this pandemic comes to a close as quickly as possible, people stop dying and the economy recovers.

One of the advantages of being a stamp collector is being able to pursue our hobby at home and alone. I know for myself, and probably for many of you as well, there is always some work to be done on our collections. Boxes of stamps to sort, stamps to place in albums, some philatelic research to pursue and one of our books on stamp collecting to finally get around to reading.

And don't forget to visit the great philatelic websites that are available. At the website of the **American Philatelic Society** (www.stamps.org), besides being able to buy stamps at the APS online store, there are over 75 different albums on United States stamps (years from 2008 to 2019, States/Cities) and topics. The pages are free to download for personal use. At the website of the **American Topical Association** (www.americantopicalassn.org) you will find "Topical Tidbits", a multipagepub-

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Meetings are held at 8:00PM on the fourth Thursday of the month except for November (third Thursday) and July and August (summer recess). The club meets in the Community Room of the Westfield Town Hall located in the center of Westfield at 425 East Broad Street.

Dues are \$8.00 per membership year which runs from September 1 to August 31.

The club newsletter will be published every two months from September to June.

For information visit
our website

www.westfieldstampclub.org

or call

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RECENT ARTICLES WRITTEN BY MEMBERS

Roger S. Brody - "U.S. Red and Tan Pressboard Transfer "Proofs". *The United States Specialist* April 2020; 91(4):153-170.

Nicholas a. Lombardi - "A 'Deck Card' Rarity". *The United States Specialist* February 2020; 91(2):58-60.

Frederick C. Skvara -(1) "Endemic Disease, Outbreak, Epidemic, Pandemic! What is the Difference?". *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately* 2020; 64(1):10-15. (2) "Soap, an Inexpensive Precaution Against Disease". *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately* 2020; 64(1):15-17.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DEN (cont.)

lication, published periodically, showing information, fun facts, games, etc. on a specific topic. In addition, the ATA has over 200 album pages of various topics. Both of these features are free to download. And don't forget the **Spellman Philatelic Museum** (www.spellmanmuseum.org) in Wellesley, Massachusetts. The museum offers a number of YouTube videos on philately (search spellman museum on www.youtube.com). There is also a wonderful stamp calendar in which each day of the month shows a stamp related to that day. These features are due to the efforts of Henry Lukas, Education Director at the Museum. You should consider joining all three of these organizations.

You might even find some time to write up some aspect of your collections for our newsletter as I am always looking for items to publish.

As you can see this newsletter has been greatly expanded. Since I started sending actual stamps on a 5½ x 8½-inch sheet, I have been mailing the newsletter in a 6 x 9 inch envelope which usually weighs over one ounce and requires 70¢ postage for up to 2 ounces. So why not 'fill up' the 2 ounces if I have enough material to publish.

Therefore, with this issue I am adding several new features that I will include in future issues as space permits. I have always enjoyed Bob Lamb's column "Worldwide in a Nutshell" in *The American Philatelist* and Kenneth A. Wood's book *Where in the World: An Atlas for Stamp Collectors*. My take is "Discover the World" highlighting the rich variety of postal emissions from around the world. In this issue I look at Abu Dhabi.

As most of you know, although I am a worldwide collector, I really gravitate to topical collecting so I am starting a column "The Topical Alphabet" in this issue. For each letter of the alphabet I will illustrate on one, two or three pages examples of a single topic whose name begins with that letter. The stamps will either show the topic directly or relate to the topic. The pages show only a small sample of the stamps that could be used to illustrate each topic. The first stamp(s) known to depict each topic are highlighted on a color frame, the same color as the color of the each letter's title frame. The topic in this issue for 'A' is Alice in Wonderland.

Although we could not have our annual show in March, I had put together a one frame, non-competitive exhibit for our show theme, 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage. I titled the exhibit "*Remember the Ladies: Women's Suffrage and The 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment*". Three of those pages are included with this issue and the rest will be printed in future issues of our newsletter.



SOAP, AN INEXPENSIVE PRECAUTION AGAINST DISEASE

By Frederick C. Skvara

While there is, as of yet, no vaccine for the coronavirus causing COVID-19 (1), there are several recommendations to reduce the risk of getting sick and decreasing the transmission of the virus: social distancing, sheltering-in-place and washing your hands with soap and water. The history of soap goes back thousands of years and is briefly described below.

Soap can be defined as either a chemical compound or a mixture of chemical compounds resulting from the interaction of fatty oils and fats with an alkali forming salts of fatty acids. Characteristics of soap include sudsing, detergency, lowering surface tension, wetting and emulsification.

The benefits of hand washing with soap and water are due to the detergent power of soap. That may be the result of the unsymmetrical structure of the soap molecule, one end (polar) being water soluble and the other being insoluble in water and soluble in oil. The soap molecule attaches itself at one end to the dirt and at the other end to the water and has a tendency to pull the dirt into solution. In addition, soap has germicidal power against some organisms.



Lion of Babylon. Iraq 1963 (Scott 322) [Built by Nebuchadnezzar II, King of Babylon (605–562 BC.)]



Top of memorial pillar of the Code of Hammurabi from Babylon showing Shamash, the Mesopotamian guardian god giving King Hammurabi (c.1810–c.1750 B.C.) a sharp pen. Iraq 1963 (Scott 344)

It seems the history of soap begins in Babylon, an ancient kingdom of Mesopotamia corresponding to the southern plains between Baghdad and the Persian Gulf lying between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in present day Iraq. It was the site of a high civilization around 3000 B.C. and about 2800 B.C. the Babylonians developed a method for making soap that was used for washing textiles but not personal hygiene as it was too harsh.

The Ebers Papyrus (1550 B.C.), a collection of medicinal recipes, mentions that the Egyptians mixed animal and vegetable oils with alkaline salts to make soap that was used for treating skin ailments.

Pliny the Elder (A.D. 23–79) was a Roman lawyer, historian and naturalist whose 37 volume *Historia Naturalis* provides a rich source of ancient scientific knowledge and includes the first appearance of the word *sapo*, Latin for soap. He describes the creation of soap by boiling goat's tallow and causticized wood ashes by the Phoenicians around 600 B.C.

The early Romans and Greeks had been using soap for some time, but it was harsh and they avoided washing with it. It wasn't until Julius Caesar's conquest of Gaul (2) that they were introduced to a Celtic formula for soap that was much gentler than the soap that they had been using.



Section of Papyrus Ebers now in library at the University of Leipzig. DDR 1981 (Scott 2207)



Pliny the Elder and portion of *Historia Naturalis*. St. Thomas & Prince Islands. 2008 (Scott 1797d)



Phoenician traders, 700 B.C. Gibraltar 2000 (Scott 841d)

Julius Caesar. Italy 1929 (Scott 214)



Roman Centurian. Great Britain 1971 (Scott 655)



Vercingetorix at Battle of Gergovia (52 B.C. France 1966 (Scott 1165) [Vercingetorix (c. 82 B.C. – 46 B.C.), king of the Arverni Gallic tribe who united the Gauls against Julius Caesar's Roman forces. He is considered a folk hero in Auvergne and defeated Caesar's legions at the Battle of Gergovia, but was defeated at the Battle of Alesia (52 B.C.), where he surrendered to Caesar and was executed in Rome in 46 B.C.]

In the second century A.D., the Greek physician Aretaeus of Cappadocia (c. 130–200) wrote "those alkaline substances made into balls" are a "very excellent thing to cleanse the body in the bath".



Aretaeus of Cappadocia.
South Africa-Transkei
1990 (Scott 235)

In the 5th century soap-making moved to India, Africa and the Middle East and eventually was introduced into Europe in the 11th to 13th centuries by returning Crusaders who had enjoyed the cleansing effect of soap and water.



Geoffroi de Villehardouin (c. A.D. 1150 – c. 1213–1218) and Crusader's ships. France 1959 (Scott B330) [Knight and historian who joined the Crusade in 1199 and wrote an eyewitness account about the battle for Constantinople.

Soapmaking began in France in the 13th century and in England by the 14th century and achieved widespread acceptance in Europe at this time. It was made out of natural oils and perfumes in the southern countries and from animal fats, including whale blubber, in the northern countries. But with soap's growing popularity, revenue-hungry governments saw a means to raise money. One of the earliest examples was England's King Charles I who in 1632 gave London soap-makers a fourteen-year monopoly in exchange for annual payments to the Royal Treasury.



Charles I (1600–1649), reigned 1625–1649. Great Britain 2010 (Scott 2809)

In 1790 Nicholas Leblanc (1742–1806), a French surgeon and chemist, developed a process to make alkali (sodium carbonate), which was used in making soap, paper, glass and porcelain, from common salt (sodium chloride). Large-scale production of soap was now possible and it no longer remained a luxury item.

But besides using soap to clean oneself, soap could also save lives. During the Crimean War (1853–1856), as reports of the squalor and sufferings of the sick and wounded in the English camps and hospitals reached Britain, the anger of the British public forced the Secretary of War, Sidney Herbert, to ask Florence Nightingale (1820–1910) to go to the Crimea as *Superintendent of the Female Nursing Establishment of the English General Hospitals in Turkey*. She arrived at the Barracks Hospital in Scutari, a suburb of Constantinople, on November 4, 1854, with 38 nurses. She found "endless scenes of human agony" with men in ragged uniforms caked with blood, no water, no soap, no towels, open sewers under the hospital and putrid food. Her sanitary reforms, including setting up a laundry to clean the men's uniforms and blankets with soap and water, diet kitchens to produce edible food and other sanitary reforms reduced the mortality rate from 43% to 2% within six months.



Florence Nightingale & Selimiye Barracks Hospital in Scutari. Turkey 1954 (Scott RA167–169)

In the American Civil War of 1861–1865, the high death toll from unsanitary conditions and disease led to new requirements that soldiers use soap every day. Union nurse Clara Barton and Confederate nurse Phoebe Pember treated the wounded and promoted sanitary conditions on the battlefield and/or in military hospitals.



Clara Barton (1821–1912) Union nurse who nursed the wounded during the American Civil War and founder of the American Red Cross. United States 1995 (Scott 2975c)

Phoebe Pember (1823–1913). Confederate nurse. United States 1995 (Scott 2975r) [For a description of how the nurse in this stamp is actually a composite of two nurses see Sandra Moss' article in the July/September 2019 *Scalpel & Tongs*, "The Phoebe Pember Civil War Stamp: A Tale of Two Matrons", pgs 52-53.]



The beneficial effects of soap in warfare was not lost on the soap manufacturers and with the advertising industry, a number of marketing tools were developed. The Procter & Gamble Company had heard that women liked to be entertained while doing housework and in 1933 they sponsored a daytime radio domestic drama, a 15-minute serial, "Ma Perkins", the first soap opera, and now there are numerous soap operas on radio and television.

Notes:

1) Coronaviruses are RNA viruses that are broadly distributed among humans, other mammals and birds. They cause diseases of the lung, gastrointestinal tract and liver and are one of the viruses responsible for the common cold.

Up to the emergence of the coronavirus from Wuhan, China, there were six species of coronavirus known to cause human disease. Four of these cause common cold symptoms, while two – **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (SARS-CoV)** and **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)** are zoonotic in origin and have been linked to sometimes fatal disease. SARS-CoV was the causal agent of the severe acute respiratory syndrome pandemic in 2002 and 2003

that originated in Guangdong Province, China. MERS-CoV was the virus responsible for severe respiratory disease epidemic in 2012 in the Middle East.

In late December 2019 several local health facilities reported clusters of patients with pneumonia of unknown cause that were all linked to a seafood and wet animal wholesale market in Wuhan, China. The causal agent, as we all know has been identified as a coronavirus, **SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19)**, whose RNA sequences closely resemble those of viruses that silently circulate in bats. Epidemiologic information implicates a bat-origin virus infecting, as of yet, an unidentified animal species sold in China's live-animal markets. It is the latest example of an animal virus that host-switches to humans and as RNA viruses are genetically error-prone, we should not be surprised that these viruses can evolve into ones that cause human-to-human transmission. Thus, viruses from animals (including birds) become human viruses and in a crowded world of 7.8 billion people, combined with altered human behavior and environmental changes, these obscure animal viruses can become a major human threat.

Since I wrote this article, I am aware of stamps issued for **Covid-19** from the following countries: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Central African Republic, China, Indonesia, Switzerland, United Arab Republic and VietNam. There have also been a number of related postmarks and some postal labels from Great Britain.

2) Gaul is an ancient region of Europe corresponding to modern France, Belgium, the south Netherlands, southwest Germany and northern Italy which had been settled by Celts beginning in 900 B.C. The Romans captured part of Gaul in 222 B.C., with Caesar capturing the area of Gaul north of the Alps in the first century B.C.





MAY/JUNE PHILATELIC QUIZ



- Q1. What was "The Trent Affair" during the American Civil War?
- Q2. For what country did a British meteorologist propose the use of potatoes as currency to pay for postage and had produced a number of sheets of 'stamps/stickers' but they were not used by that country?
- Q3. What country, recognized as a country in international law, issues its own stamps and coins, has been in existence since the 11th century, has established diplomatic relations with a number of nations, and yet has no citizens and less than three acres of territory?
- Q4. What United States stamp reproduces the lines from a letter: "I am at Braintree but wish I was at Weymouth!"?
- Q5. What country issued the first postage due stamps?



ANSWERS TO MARCH/APRIL PHILATELIC QUIZ



Q1. What country was the first to print postage stamps using thermography?

Ans. **Sierra Leone**

As described in the 2003 book *Philatelic Terms Illustrated* by James Mackay and published by Stanley Gibbons, thermography is a printing process whose name is derived from the Greek meaning “heat writing” and alludes to the production of a pattern in raised relief by heating a resinous compound. Sierra Leone was the first country to use the process to print postage stamps when it issued a set of free form, self-adhesive, ‘map’ stamps in February 1964. The country name and inscriptions were printed thermographically while the image of the lion and map were printed by lithography. They were printed by the Walsall Lithographic Company in England. The same process was used to print the President Kennedy Memorial set in May of that same year.



February 1964 (Scott 263)



Beautiful crimson flower.
May 1965 (Scott 302)

In May 1965, Walsall overprinted the January 1963 flower definitives thermographically with portraits and text commemorating the two leaders – Sir Milton Margai (1895–1964), a Sierra Leonean doctor and first Prime Minister of Sierra Leone and Sir Winston Churchill (1874–1965).

Up until 1984 there were few additional stamps produced by this process. In January, 1984 the French firm, Cartor Security Printing, printed a series of three stamps thermographically featuring sea shells for New Caledonia that gave a much more realistic appearance to the surface of the shells. They subsequently printed several other sets of sea shells for New



Amalda Fuscolingua & *Cassis Abbotti*.
New Caledonia 1992 (Scott C239 & C240)

Caledonia, including the stamps shown here. Since then Cartor has used thermography to produce stamps for a number of countries including Gibraltar, French Polynesia, Faroe Islands, the United Nations and others. Thermography is ideally suited to subjects which are three-dimensional or have a bas-relief effect. [Ref: “Thermography” by James Mackay. *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* 2002; 32(11):77-79]



Q2. What country, at one time, used a barrel to deliver mail?

Ans. **Canada**

Canada Post issued a pair of stamps in 2011 paying tribute to two unusual methods of mail delivery – barrel mail and mail by dog sled. The Magdalen Islands are an archipelago located in the middle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence north of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. A telegraphic cable carrying communications between the islands and the mainland was snapped during the 1910 winter. With all contact between the islands and the mainland lost, the inhabitants of the islands took a ponchon, a large barrel used for transporting molasses, made sure it was watertight and attached a rudder and a sail. The barrel was marked “Winter Magdalen Mail”, loaded with steel boxes filled with letters, including a letter explaining the situation and asking the finder to mail the letters to their destinations. On February 2, 1910, the barrel was launched and found about a week later at Port Hastings on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, about 100 miles from its launch site by Murdoch McIssac who forwarded the letters.



Barrel Mail & Mail by Dog Sled
Canada 2011 (Scott 2468–69)

The second stamp celebrates another unusual method of mail delivery. Before airmail service was put into place the only reliable method of mail delivery in northern Canada during winter was by dog team. [Ref: *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* 2011; 42(4):162]

Q3. 2020 is the 400th anniversary of the landing of the *Mayflower* at Plymouth Rock in 1620. What is the origin of the ship's name?

Ans. **The English Hawthorn**

On September 6, 1620, 102 founders of the Plymouth Colony in America sailed from Plymouth, England, making landfall in southeast Massachusetts in December of that same year and established the Colony of New Plymouth. They subsequently became known as the Forefathers and in the 19th century, the Pilgrim Fathers. Composed of separatists from the Church of England including a group that fled from the village of Scooby in Nottinghamshire to Holland in 1608. Ten years later, in 1618, they received the backing of a group of London merchants and permission to settle in Virginia.

Mayflower & Pilgrims leaving Plymouth, England. Great Britain 1970 (Scott 615)



Mayflower & Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. United States 1970 (Scott 1420)

Their ship, *Mayflower*, was a small English merchant ship of 180 tons that previously carried wine from the Mediterranean and fish and timber from Norway. On the voyage to America it was captained by Christopher Jones from Harwich, a seaport, in Essex, England and was one of a number of ships named *Mayflower* in the early part of the 17th century in England. The question arises as to why it was such a popular name for a ship.

We can surmise an answer by looking closely at the only commemorative stamps issued by the United States Post Office Department in 1920, the Pilgrim Tercentenary set of three (Scott 548–550) commemorating the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Massachusetts. Many of the stamps of the early 20th century had decorative borders and this set is no exception. On the left side of each of the three stamps is a series of blossoms from the English hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*), known in England as the mayflower.

The blossoms of the American mayflower, the trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*), can be seen on the right side of these stamps. The American mayflower is the provincial flower of Nova Scotia and the state flower of Massachusetts.

So the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America in 1620 and others named *Mayflower* were probably named for the blooming of the English Hawthorn that coincided with the spring start of the sailing season. [Ref: "What is a Mayflower?" by Malcolm M. Ferguson. *Scott Stamp Monthly* 1990; 8(7): 12-13]



Mayflower. United States 1920 (Scott 548) [Enlarged]



English hawthorn (mayflower) & wild blackberry. Great Britain 1967 (Scott 488)



American mayflower & arms of Nova Scotia. Canada 1965 (Scott 420)



American mayflower & Black-capped chickadee. United States 1982 (Scott 1973) [State flower & bird of Massachusetts]




ANSWERS TO MARCH/APRIL
PHILATELIC QUIZ


Q4. What United States postage stamp depicts the first publicly operated historic site in the United States?

Ans. **United States 1933 (Scott 727)**

During the last year of the American Revolutionary War, Hasbrouck House in Newburgh, New York, was the headquarters of George Washington from April 1782 until August 1783 while he was in command of the Continental Army. The farmhouse, built around 1725, was acquired by the Hasbroucks who built the present building in 1750. It was acquired by the state of New York in 1850 and became the first publicly operated historic site in the United States and in 1961 declared a National Historic Landmark. Consisting of seven acres, it contains a museum, Hasbrouck House, the “Tower of Victory” (completed in 1890) and a storage shed.



Hasbrouck House.
United States 1933
(Scott 727)

On March 31, 1782, Washington established his headquarters here and on August 7, 1782, he established a Badge of Military Merit, the forerunner of the Purple Heart, for enlisted men and non-commissioned officers. It was the first place where the badge was awarded. The order for the “cessation of hostilities” and his “Proclamation of Peace” was issued here on April 19, 1783, ending the fighting of the Revolutionary War. At the dedication for Washington’s Headquarters, General Winfield Scott on July 4, 1850, raised a flag as seen on the stamp.

The image on the stamp is based on a painting by Robert Walter Weir from which James Smillie did an engraving. The actual designer of the stamp was R.R. Meissner at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. [Ref. 1) Wikipedia 2) *The United States Commemorative Stamps of the Twentieth Century* by Max G. Johl 1947; 1: 242–245.]



Q5. What country issued the first dinosaur postage stamp?

Ans. **China (People’s Republic) 1958 (Scott 342)**

The great group of reptiles, popularly known as dinosaurs, were the dominant land animals during most of the Mesozoic Era, which extended from approximately 245 million years ago to 66 million years ago. The term dinosauria was introduced into the English language in 1841 by the British scientist Richard Owen (1804–1892). The word is derived from the Greek words *deinos* (fearfully great) and *saurus* (lizard) and refers to the gigantic proportions of some of these animals. There are two distinct orders – the reptilelike Saurischia and the birdlike Ornithischia which are related to flying reptiles and bird ancestors. Dinosaurs were diverse in habits with both herbivores (the majority) and carnivores. Some walked on two legs and others on all fours.

The first stamp featuring a dinosaur was issued by the People’s Republic of China in 1958 and depicts *Lufengosaurus* that was found near Lufeng in Yunnan Province in southern China. It was discovered in 1930 in Upper Triassic Period rocks dating from about 200 million years ago and belongs to the Saurischia order. About twenty feet in length, it may have eaten both plant and meat material and could stand on its hind legs, but usually moved on all fours.



Lufengosaurus. China
(People’s Republic) 1958
(Scott 342)

Although the first dinosaur bones were found in the latter part of the 17th century, their importance was not appreciated. The Reverend William Buckland described the remains of a giant flesh-eater, *Megalosaurus* found at Stonesfield, near Oxford. Gideon Mantell, a Sussex doctor, described the giant plant-eating *Iguanodon* and in 1833 the armoured *Hylaeosaurus*. But these discoveries were just seen as gigantic lizards. It was Richard Owen who realized that they were entirely new creatures and as noted above introduced the term dinosauria.

Since the 1958 Chinese stamp there have been numerous issues from a wide variety of countries depicting these fascinating animals and if you are a member of the American Topical Association you have access to a checklist of dinosaur and fossil stamps numbering about 4,000. [Ref: “The Age of Dinosaurs” by Simon Jones. *Scott Stamp Monthly* 1992; 10(11):6-7]



2019 EUROPA THEME: NATIONAL BIRDS

By Frederick C. Skvara

Europa postage stamps have been issued annually beginning in 1956 when the six members of the European Coal and Steel Community issued a common design stamp showing a tower made up of the letters of the word “EUROPA” surrounded by scaffolding. Those stamps are considered the first Europa issues. Except for 1957 the joint issues from the participating countries up to 1973 all had a common design. Beginning in 1974 the issued stamps had different designs, but all reflected a common theme. Over the years the number of participating countries grew to include most of the countries of Europe, the European-dependent countries and the countries resulting from the collapse of the Communist bloc in 1989–1990.

In 2002 PostEurop Association, which took over the management of the Europa issues, created an annual competition for the “Best Europa Stamp” to be chosen by representatives of the various postal administrations. Besides this jury competition, the public can vote for the most beautiful Eujropa stamp online at the PostEurop website.

The common theme for 2019 was **National Birds**, a very appealing topic for me as I am a birdwatcher. Below are the 2019 winners in both the juried competition and the online public vote:

2019 Europa Jury Competition Winners



Bearded reedling (parrotbill) (*Panurus biarmicus*), lives in reedbeds. Slovenia 2019 (Scott 1336) [first place]



Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), breeds in Eurasia, North America. Liechtenstein 2019 (Scott 1777b) [second place]



Whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), breeds in Eurasia. Finland 2019 (Scott 1585b) [third place]

2019 Europa Public Vote Winners



Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), breeds in North America & Eurasia. Armenia 2019 (Scott 1188) [first place]



Krüper's nuthatch (*Sitta krueperi*), found mainly in western Asia. Turkey 2019 [second place] [Named after German ornithologist, Theobald Johannes Krüper (1929–1921)]



Whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), breeds in Eurasia. Finland 2019 (Scott 1585b) [third place]

The Europa Study Unit is one of the American Topical Association's study units and offers a lot of information on their website (www.europastudyunit.org).

Katharine Lee Bates was born in Falmouth, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod, the daughter of a Congregationalist minister. She received bachelor and master degrees from Wellesley College where she taught English literature, eventually becoming a full professor and department head and where she spent her professional life. She wrote over 30 books on travel, children's stories and translations and editions of the classics. But her favorite writing endeavors were poetry and while never a major American poet, she was competent, well-liked and knew most of the prominent poets of the time. And it is for one of her poems, "America the Beautiful", that she is remembered today.

In the summer of 1893, as head of the English Literature Department at Wellesley, she was invited to lecture on English religious drama at Colorado College, a small liberal arts college in Colorado Springs that was established in 1874 before Colorado became a state. It was the images formed in her mind during that summer that led to her famous poem. On the train westward she noted in her diary on July 4: "Fertile prairies. Hot run across Kansas" and in Colorado she caught her first glimpse of the Rocky Mountains. After the summer's term ended at Colorado College, she joined other instructors from the East on an expedition to Pike's Peak. It was on the way down from the mountain, looking out over the "sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under those ample skies, that the opening of the hymn floated into my mind. When we left Colorado the four stanzas were penciled in my notebook..." A commemorative marker is now set on Pike's Peak to honor the site for the inspiration of probably our best-loved patriotic song.

Two years later she submitted the verses to a magazine, *The Congregationalist*, and they were published on July 4, 1895 under the title, "America". After she changed some of the phrases and rewrote some sections, the version that we know today was published in *The Boston Transcript* on November 19, 1904. Over the years the poem has been set to various tunes, but the music that is now permanently bonded to "America the Beautiful" was written by Samuel A. Ward (1848–1903), an American organist and composer from Newark, New Jersey, who wrote the tune "Materna" in 1882 for a hymn. It was published in 1892 and combined by a publisher with Katharine Lee Bates poem "America" creating the patriotic song "America the Beautiful". Commenting on the fact that her song had become a national treasure she said its popularity was "clearly due to the fact that Americans are at heart idealists, with a fundamental faith in human brotherhood."

But the images invoked by her phrases resonated beyond our country. When Pope John Paul II, on his first visit to the United States performed mass on Boston Commons on October 1, 1979, he declared "I greet you, America the Beautiful" and later during that visit, he concluded his acknowledgement of welcome:

"Permit me to express my sentiments in the lyrics of your own song":

'America, America, God shed his grace on thee.

And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.'

Katharine Lee Bates died in 1929 at her Wellesley home at the age of 70 years.

USPS Commemoration of "America the Beautiful"

1) The 1981 Flag and Anthem Definitive Issue

On April 24, 1981, the USPS, in a first, issued three distinctive Flag stamps, with a different design to accompany the flag on sheet, booklet and coil stamps, all designed by Peter Cocci at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The designs appearing below the flag on the three formats are illustrations of a phrase from "America the Beautiful".



...for amber waves of grain. Mid-western wheat fields with piece of harvesting equipment. [sheet stamp in panes of 100 (Scott 1890)]



...from sea to shining sea. South Portland head Lighthouse on the coast of Maine [coil stamp in coils of 100, 500 & 3,000 (Scott 1891)]

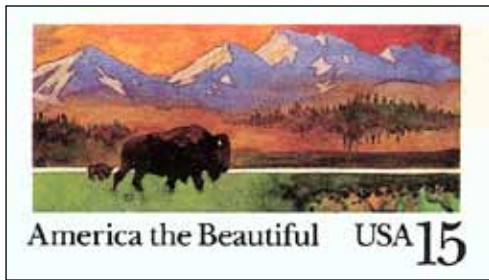


...for purple mountain majesties. Grand Teton mountain range near Jackson Hole, Wyoming [\$1.20 vending machine booklet/pane of six 18¢ & two 6¢ stamps (Scott 1893)]

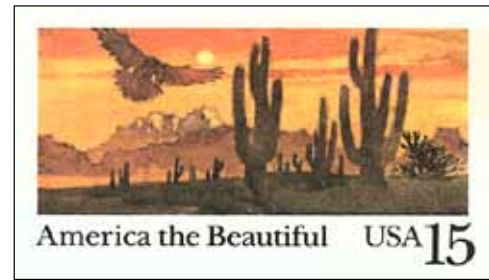
[Ref: "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" by George Amick. *Scott Stamp Monthly* 1985; 3(6): 79–80]

2) The 1988–1989 America the Beautiful Postal Cards

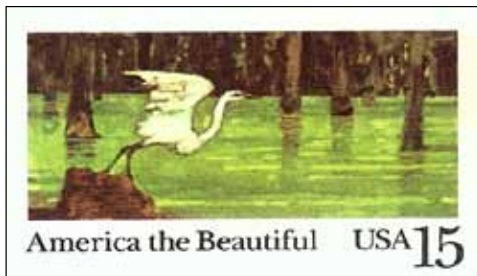
The USPS launched a colorful, new series of definitive postal cards called "America the Beautiful" on March 28, 1988 to highlight regional scenic beauty. They were printed on the new five-color, sheetfed, offset Roland Man 800 press installed in 1987. All the cards were designed by Bart Forbes of Dallas, Texas. Other than the last four cityscapes, the scenes are generic and do not refer to specific locations.



Bison on meadow with mountains in background.
March 28, 1988 (Scott UX120)



Sonora Desert, saguaro cactus, red-tailed hawk
January 13, 1989 (Scott UX127)



Wetlands, egret (or great white heron).
March 17, 1989 (Scott UX129)



Canada geese, mountains.
May 5, 1989 (Scott UX131) [postcard rate to Canada]



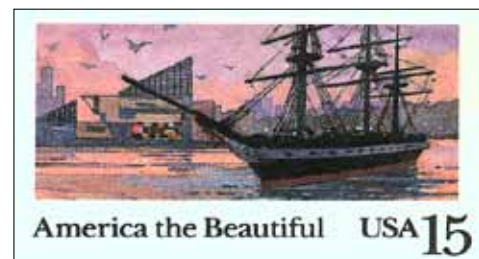
Seashore, seagulls.
June 17, 1989 (Scott UX132)



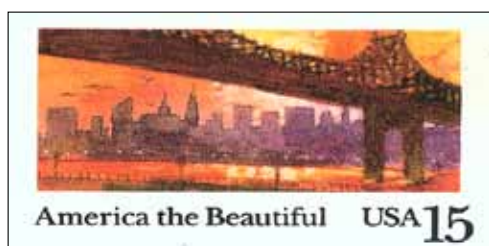
Woodland, buck.
August 26, 1989 (Scott UX133)



Independence Hall, Philadelphia.
September 25, 1989 (Scott UX135)



U.S.S. *Constellation*, Inner Harbor, Baltimore.
October 7, 1989 (Scott UX136)



Queensboro Bridge, Manhattan skyline.
November 8, 1989 (Scott UX137)



West Front of Capital, Washington, D.C.
November 26, 1989 (Scott UX138)

A IS FOR ALICE IN WONDERLAND

(The Topical Alphabet by Frederick C. Skvara)

The year 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* which has remained in print ever since it was first published in December, 1865. It was written for Alice Liddell, the ten-year-old daughter of the Dean of Christ Church College, Oxford. The Reverend Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, a young mathematics don at the college formed a friendship with Alice and wrote the tale for her.

The idea of Wonderland came from a story told by Dodgson during a July 1862 boat trip with several of the dean's children including Alice. Alice requested that he write the story down and while working on the handwritten manuscript, he decided to have it published under the pen name Lewis Carroll. He asked John Tenniel (1820–1914), a famous cartoonist for *Punch*, a weekly British magazine, and a book illustrator to create the illustrations for the text.

150th Anniversary of the publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Great Britain 2015



Alice, The Mad Hatter & The Cheshire Cat. Great Britain 1979 (First stamp for *Alice in Wonderland*)

Alice sees the White Rabbit in a hurry.



Down the Rabbit Hole floats Alice and finds a charming garden.

The Murderous Queen of Hearts obsessed with cutting off heads.

The Game of Croquet with flamingos as mallets, the balls are hedgehogs and the hoops are the Queen's soldiers gamely bending themselves in two.



'Drink Me' bottle of potion which makes Alice very small.



The White Rabbit's House where Alice drinks another potion that makes her very large.

The Cheshire Cat tells Alice everyone in Wonderland is mad.



A Mad Tea Party with the Hatter, the March Hare and the much-abused Dormouse.

Alice's Evidence in the trial of the Knave of Hearts accused of stealing the Queen's tarts.

A Pack of Cards. "At the trial the Queen shouted 'Off with her head!' Nobody moved. 'Who cares for You' said Alice (she had grown to full size by this time). 'You're nothing but a pack of cards!' Alice's accusation breaks the spell of Wonderland and Alice wakes on the riverbank".



A IS FOR ALICE IN WONDERLAND

(The Topical Alphabet by Frederick C. Skvara)

100th Anniversary of the death of John Tenniel (1820–1914)

Palau 2014

Knave of Hearts



Birds in Powdered Wigs



Alice at Tea Party
Alice with 'Drink Me' Bottle

Alice & Flowers
Alice & Playing Cards

A IS FOR ALICE IN WONDERLAND

(The Topical Alphabet by Frederick C. Skvara)

Tea Party scene from 1951 Disney movie *Alice in Wonderland*
Republic of Maldives 1980



150th Anniversary of Publication of *Alice in Wonderland*
Tristan da Cunha 2015



The selvedge depicts Edwin Dodgson, a priest and schoolteacher in Tristan da Cunha and younger brother of Charles Dodgson, creator of *Alice in Wonderland*.

“REMEMBER THE LADIES”, WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE & THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

By Frederick C. Skvara

Access to the Ballot Box

It must be remembered that the right to vote was never included in the United States Constitution as the founders never intended for everyone to vote. They let voting default to the states. States controlled access to the ballot box and state constitutions defined who was eligible to vote, and by omission, who was not eligible to vote. The standards in the middle of the 19th century defined the classes of eligible voters as adult, white citizens of the United States, white immigrants who had declared an intention to become citizens, and a small number of Native Americans. Neither females of those classes nor African Americans of either sex could qualify to vote. It wasn't until the ratification of the 15th Amendment in 1870 that Congress extended voting rights to freedmen after the civil War and could not be denied “on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.” It would be another fifty years before voting rights extended to women with the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.



Early Ballot Box. 1977 (Scott 1584)

Adoption of the Constitution by J.B. Stearns. 1987 (Scott 798) [150th Anniversary of the Signing of the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787.]



Colonial Court House in Williamsburg, Virginia from a photograph in the *National Geographic Magazine*. 1938 (Scott 835) [150th Anniversary of the ratification of the United States Constitution on June 21, 1788



Bicentennial of the Drafting of the United States Constitution 1987 (Scott 2355–2359) [Gamm Cachet]

“REMEMBER THE LADIES”, WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE & THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT (cont.)

By Frederick C. Skvara

The *New Oxford American Dictionary* defines suffrage as “the right to vote in a political election” and a suffragette as “a woman seeking the right to vote through organized protest”.

Some Background

One hundred forty-four years before the House of Representatives voted to pass the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in 1920, Abigail Adams, in what was a first step in the fight for equal rights for women, wrote a letter to her husband, John Adams on March 31, 1776. In that letter she urged him and other members of the Continental Congress to

...remember the ladies and become generous and favorable to them... If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.



Bicentennial of the Ratification of the Constitution by New Jersey, December 18, 1787. 1987 (Scott 2338)

Later that same year on October 31, 1776, New Jersey’s first state constitution gave the right to vote to all citizens without regard to gender or race as long as “they” had property worth 50 pounds. A 1797 statue referred to voters as “he or she” and enfranchised not just white women, but as one New Jersey lawmaker wrote in 1800 “our constitution gives the right to maids and widows, white and black”. Unfortunately, after a bitterly fought election in 1806 where more votes were cast than the number of eligible voters, and the claim that there was fraudulent voting by women, the law was changed to limit the vote to property-owning white men.



Abigail Adams (1744–1818) 1985 (Scott 2146)

Women suffragettes in the United States then embarked on a long and arduous road for the right to vote. They marched and paraded. They agitated and demonstrated. They created local, state and national organizations. They convened in meeting halls, churches, and street corners. They delivered speeches and lectures. They picketed and protested, got jailed and paid fines. They wrote letters, brochures, pamphlets, magazine articles and books. They designed stamps, signs, slogans, and posters. They went on hunger strikes. They studied and wrote laws, and worked with state and federal legislatures for enactment. They were pacifists and militant activists. They were peacemakers and troublemakers. But, most of all, they were dedicated.



Photograph from *Smithsonian Magazine* showing the May 3, 1916, New York City parade announcing that women have full suffrage in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Idaho.

Declaration of Sentiments

The seminal moment for the movement of voting rights for women came on the morning of July 19, 1848, in Seneca Falls, New York, at a convention for women's rights. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott unveiled the **Declaration of Sentiments** proposing that "woman is man's equal," and that she should "secure the sacred right to elective franchise." While Stanton is usually credited as the leader of this effort, it was Mott's mentoring and their work together that inspired the event.



Century of Progress of American Women. 1948 (Scott 959)

Elizabeth Stanton (1815–1902) [left]

- First President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association

Carrie Chapman Catt (1859–1947) [center]

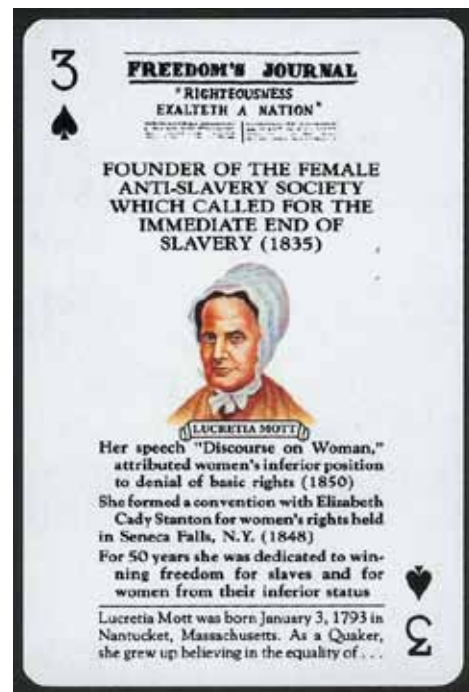
- President of National American Woman Suffrage Association
- Founder of the League of Women Voters
- Founder of the International Alliance of Women

Lucretia Mott (1793–1880)[right]

- Abolitionist, women's rights activist & social reformer
- Founder Swarthmore College



Elizabeth Stanton playing card
©2008 U.S. Games Systems, Inc.



Lucretia Mott playing card
©2008 U.S. Games System, Inc.



The logo of the Women's Rights Movement with the female gender symbol and an equals sign superimposed on a stylized white bird. Scott 3189j)[The movement for women's rights became part of the national consciousness in the 1970s. Groups such as the National Organization for Women (NOW) sought equal treatment under the law and women strongly supported the Equal Rights Amendment approved by Congress in 1972, but still not ratified.]

Discover the World: *Abu Dhabi*

Area – 26,000 sq.mi. Population – 2,785,000 (2015)
(Now part of the United Arab Emirates)



The Emirate of Abu Dhabi, located on the southern Arabian Peninsula on the Persian Gulf, is one of the seven Arab sheikhdoms that formed the Trucial States Federation (Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujeira, Sharjah, Ras al Khaima, Umm al Qiwain) on January 7, 1961. The term 'trucial' refers to several maritime truces that the sheikhdoms had made with Britain in the 19th century agreeing to end piracy and slavery in the region in return for protection from Britain. Abu Dhabi adjoins the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman and borders the emirates of Dubai and Sharjah to its north. It is the largest emirate of the United Arab Emirates and 95% of the land consists of a low-lying sandy terrain and sand dunes with a small part of the land area covered by mountains. There are some wetlands and mangrove areas on the coast and some of the dozens of uninhabited islands have been designated wildlife sanctuaries. The Tropic of Cancer runs through the southern part of the Emirate resulting in year-round high temperatures and very hot summers.

Dhabi is the arabic name for a native gazelle that was once common in the region and Abu Dhabi means "Father of the Gazelle". Early human settlements can be traced back to the early Stone Age (6,000 – 3200 B.C.), but a civilization of fishermen, herders and farmers didn't develop in the oases and coastal areas until the Bronze Age (3200 – 1300 B.C.). Then with the development of a water irrigation system in the Iron Age (1300 – 300 B.C.), human settlements expanded and the production of dates increased supporting the growing population. The modern era of Abu Dhabi began in 1761 when a Bedoin tribe established a settlement whose economy, at least until the middle of the twentieth century, consisted of the production of dates and vegetables, along with camel herding inland and fishing and pearl diving off its coast. In 1958 oil was discovered in the Emirate and when oil exports began in 1962, oil revenues soon became the major contributor to its economy. When the Trucial States Federation was formed in 1961, a set of eleven stamps were issued inscribed "Trucial States", but were to be used only in the Emirate of Dubai. They were withdrawn in June 1963. But British stamps surcharged in Indian currency (anna, naye paise, or rupee) and with no other distinguishing marks were used in Abu Dhabi from December 1960 until March 29, 1964. They were supplied to oil construction workers on Das Island, a part of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in the Persian Gulf and a major site of crude oil and natural gas exportation, but the postal service was run by the British Postal Agency in Bahrain. The first stamps issued from Abu Dhabi were issued by the British Agency Post Office that opened in Abu Dhabi on March 30, 1963, and again were British stamps overprinted in Indian currency.

On March 30, 1964, Abu Dhabi began issuing its own stamps imprinted with the country name, but still denominated in Indian currency. They continued to issue their own stamps until June 3, 1972, although they had joined the United Arab Emirates on December 2, 1971.



Queen Elizabeth II. Oman 1957 (Scott 61 & 75) [Used in Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Dubai & Qatar]



Date palm
(*Phoenix dactylifera*)



Trucial States 1961 Scott 3 & 8)

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Sheik Shakhbut Bin-Sultan Al Nahyan (1905–1989). Abu Dhabi 1964 (Scott 4)



Dorcas gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*) Abu Dhabi 1964 (Scott 5)



Sheik Shakhbut Bin-Sultan Al Nahyan (1905–1989), date palm & palace.. Abu Dhabi 1964 (Scott 8)



Lanner falcon (*Falco biarmicus*). Abu Dhabi 1964 (Scott 14)